

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

December 4, 2001

6:00 PM

Chairman Sysyn called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Sysyn, Vaillancourt, Pariseau, Hirschmann (late), Lopez

Messrs: Lt. Lussier, T. Lolicata

Chairman Sysyn addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Communication from Mrs. Virginia Caikauskas relative to the parking situation at the intersection of Salmon and Maples Streets.

Alderman Lopez stated the only question I have is did you finally speak to the lady and is she going to get a letter from the Police Department and what is the final result. I didn't have a chance to read your whole letter.

Lt. Lussier replied I have spoken with her on numerous occasions and then I began speaking with her daughter, who actually authored that e-mail to me. I haven't spoken with her since. I know that she had spoken with you. I didn't realize this was coming before the Traffic Committee until yesterday, which is why I threw this note together, to just kind of give you my thoughts on the matter. I haven't spoken with her since I authored this.

Alderman Lopez asked have you made a final decision as to whether she is right or wrong. That is what she is asking.

Lt. Lussier answered in my opinion and this is what I told her right from the beginning, this is a matter that is better left as is. There is a lot of debate as to whether that side of the road she is talking about is a left-hand turn lane or whether it is a parking area. I don't know if you would like a minute to review my correspondence.

Mr. Lolicata stated I was up there with the police. I went back to the ordinances of 1964. That whole area has had no ordinances whatsoever. The four signs involved are all "No Parking Here to Corner." Now when you come up to that

intersection it is like a single lane. Both sides you can park on. Since 1970 there has been a no parking ordinance on either side of the street up there in that area.

Alderman Lopez stated well you tell us what you are going to do and tell her what you are going to do. That is what Ted Gatsas and myself want.

Mr. Lolicata replied the final analysis is leave it alone. There is no parking on both sides here to corner. You can park on both sides and we have had instances where people are taking the wrong way and this would probably deter them. We were up there watching this. We couldn't find any ordinances for no parking and I went back to 1964.

Alderman Pariseau moved to receive and file. Alderman Vaillancourt duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Sysyn called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Lopez being duly recorded in opposition.

Lt. Lussier stated the very first day I spoke with her I made it clear to her that I did not support what she wanted to do and that I didn't see what the issue was. I would be more than happy to call her and let her know.

Alderman Lopez replied the only thing I am asking is that you put in writing what the rule is and how you are going to do it. That should be the end of it.

Chairman Sysyn stated just write her a short note, Lt. Lussier.

Alderman Lopez replied she is entitled to an answer.

Chairman Sysyn responded and she will get one.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 4 of the agenda:

Communication from the President of the Manchester Choral Society requesting the issuance of some sort of identification for their members to park in the Hartnett Parking Lot on those evenings they rehearse.

Alderman Pariseau moved to receive and file. Alderman Vaillancourt duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Sysyn called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Hirschmann being duly recorded in opposition.

Chairman Sysyn addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Request of Mark Rooney, Advance Manager of the Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Torch Relay Committee seeking closure of Elm Street between Merrimack and Central Street from 10:30 AM to 5:50 PM on Friday, December 28, 2001.

The Clerk stated that an additional request was passed out to Committee members asking to add Pleasant Street from Elm to Franklin to the street closure and noting that the Police Department is in agreement.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated it is a long time isn't it, 10:30 AM to 5:50 PM.

Lt. Lussier replied they actually started today. The torch run started today and on that day they are starting from Boston and going up to Maine and then down Route 101 to Manchester. They have a schedule and they try to be fairly accurate. They are going to close off Elm Street so that they can set-up for the event when they get here and they will be here a short time and then they are going to head up to Lebanon that night. They need some time to set-up and take down and that is why the road closure is so long. The actual event won't be that long.

Alderman Lopez moved to approve the request. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I just want to point out that that is the date of a hockey game. It might interfere with some of Mr. Lolicata's parkers that want to go into the garages and walk.

Mr. Lolicata replied I don't think it will be a problem.

Lt. Lussier stated the hockey games usually start at 7:05 PM and the pedestrian traffic is not usually that bad.

Alderman Lopez stated we are only talking about one guy carrying a torch anyway aren't we.

Lt. Lussier replied they have a whole motorcade of vehicles and it is quite a process really.

Chairman Sysyn called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Sysyn advised that the Traffic Department has submitted an

agenda, which needs to be addressed as follows:

NO PARKING:

On Pond Dr. west side, from Goffs Falls Rd. to a point 160 feet southerly
Alderman Vaillancourt

On Silver St. south side, from a point 60 feet east of Belmont St. to a point 60 feet
easterly
Alderman Shea

RESCIND NO PARKING:

On Pond Dr., both sides, from Goffs Falls Rd. to the dead end of Pond Dr.
Alderman Vaillancourt

RESCIND 2 HOUR PARKING METERS:

On Old Granite St. north side, from a point 105 feet west of Elm St. to a point 85
feet east of Granite St. (15 spaces)

10 HOUR PARKING METERS:

On Old Granite St. north side, from a point 105 feet west of Elm St. to a point 85
feet east of Granite St. (15 spaces)

TRAFFIC SIGNALS:

Union St. and Webster St. (install a southbound advance left arrow)

PARKING 2 HOURS (8AM-6PM):

On Laurel St. north side, from Beech St. to a point 110 feet easterly
Alderman Sysyn

On Temple Court, east side, from Brook St. to Harrison St.
Alderman Levasseur

NO PARKING (6AM-2PM MON-FRI) (EMERGENCY ACT):

On Willow St. east side, from a point 950 feet south of Auburn St. to a point 95
feet southerly
Alderman Levasseur

RESCIND NO PARKING LOADING ZONE (EMERGENCY ACT):

On Lake Ave. north side, from Chestnut St. to a point 40 feet westerly
Alderman Levasseur

On motion of Alderman Vaillancourt, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was
voted to approve the traffic agenda as presented.

DISCUSSION:

RESCIND RESIDENT PARKING PERMIT ONLY SIGNS FOR THE ARENA AREA

Chairman Sysyn stated the reason I brought this in is I am getting a ton of phone calls from residents who also live in the City of Manchester who want to visit their relatives in these areas and they are getting \$15 tickets because it says "Resident Parking Only". The residents can get their parking permit stickers from City Hall and still not have to pay for parking. Tom Lolicata I believe at the beginning of this didn't want to do that.

Mr. Lolicata replied since we inaugurated this and put the signs up, all we do is get phone calls. It is not that people don't know what to do. They can't even have people come to visit them. You have to realize that this means "Resident Parking Only" 365 days a year, day and night, and on top of this we had to take care of the stores because of the area with the 15 minute parking but...

Chairman Sysyn interjected I went to Bakolas' Market to shop and I would have gotten a \$15 parking ticket if somebody had seen where I had parked. The Board of Directors for the Vericlese Club met on a Sunday afternoon and they got \$15 parking tickets.

Lt. Lussier replied not on a Sunday. There are no parking control officers on Sunday.

Chairman Sysyn responded well it was over the weekend sometime that he got a parking ticket. Two women, the Vergas girls, went to visit their mother and their aunt who live at 164 Auburn Street I believe. Both of those ladies are handicapped and they don't have a car so the two girls went to see their mother and their aunt and got a \$15 parking ticket.

Lt. Lussier replied I will tell you that I oversee the parking control officers and from the day that the civic center opened we have had people out there until 8 PM and to speak of we have seen no complaints until we started enforcing the residential parking.

Chairman Sysyn responded it is horrendous. They are calling me because they know that I am involved with the Traffic Committee I guess.

Alderman Lopez stated just to make sure that I understand, we are going to rescind this and what is it going to be, two-hour parking only.

Mr. Lolicata replied the Traffic Department originally asked for two-hour parking in these zones. It was not passed and they wanted resident parking only and that is what you got.

Alderman Lopez stated my question though is if the Committee rescinds this it then goes back to two-hour parking.

Mr. Lolicata replied they never had it before for those areas. I would try to recommend two-hour parking from 8 AM until 8 PM. At least people can go and visit for a few hours and from 8 PM on they can stay with them.

Alderman Lopez responded I realize that but I am saying if we rescind it what are we going to do. What is the answer?

Mr. Lolicata replied I would suggest two-hour parking in those areas from 8 AM until 8 PM.

Chairman Sysyn asked do we have enough parking meters. They would prefer parking meters because they somebody could stay for three or four hours.

Mr. Lolicata answered I do not have enough parking meters right now. In the interim, I am recommending two-hour parking.

Chairman Sysyn stated so we can take those signs down.

Mr. Lolicata replied we can take them down and replace them.

Alderman Lopez moved to rescind the "Resident Parking Only" and change it to a "2 Hour Parking" zone.

Alderman Hirschmann asked they already have the parking permits, right.

Chairman Sysyn answered the problem with that is that a lot of them don't know that they have to go get parking permits. Some how we need to advertise that.

Alderman Hirschmann stated but what I am saying is they already have the parking permits and if you put the meters in can they park in front of their house for free.

Chairman Sysyn replied yes.

Alderman Hirschmann asked are you making sure that is part of the motion.

Alderman Vaillancourt answered there are no meters going in.

Alderman Hirschmann replied he said they are.

Chairman Sysyn responded later. Right now he is going to put two-hour parking. He doesn't have enough meters to put down there.

Mr. Lolicata stated I don't have enough meters.

Chairman Sysyn stated if you live at Amoskeag Place, there are meters in front there and those people went and got parking permits at City Hall and they can park in front of their house at a meter.

Alderman Hirschmann replied that is what I am asking. Is that what we are doing?

Chairman Sysyn responded we are going to have to amend it later on to say that we are going to have parking meters because you don't have that right now.

Mr. Lolicata stated there are six streets that are involved here and you are saying that you want meters in these places. I won't get to those until next year.

Chairman Sysyn replied so put the two-hour parking for now.

Mr. Lolicata asked so in the interim you want the two-hour signs but you are suggesting that we put meters in later on.

Chairman Sysyn answered yes. Even the tenants don't mind that they have them and their visitors don't mind. I was at the market and several people had come in to shop and they live in that area and they said they don't care if they have the meters.

Lt. Lussier stated the problem with the two-hour parking zone is that the parking control officers are out until 8 PM. If I show up at 6 PM I am going to park in one of those two hour zones for a civic center event and 6 PM will get me there for just about any event and my two hours ends at 8 PM and the parking control officers have gone home so I am basically there for the entire night, which could be midnight.

Chairman Sysyn replied it is going to happen to you with meters anyway. People park at a meter at 6 PM and they feed the meter and go to the civic center for a couple of bucks and they are happy.

Lt. Lussier stated right now the fine for a meter is \$5 and on January 1 it goes up to \$10. The intention of that was to force them into the parking garages a little bit. We are hoping that the \$10 will push them into the parking garages.

Chairman Sysyn stated we need better advertising for our parking garages. That is another subject.

Chairman Sysyn called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Communication from Leo R. Bernier requesting to close a portion of Elm Street from Lake Avenue to Hanover Street on January 1, 2002 for the Inauguration.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Vaillancourt, it was voted to approve this request.

Ratify and confirm poll regarding a \$3 coupon for parking on civic center event nights.

On motion of Alderman Vaillancourt, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to ratify and confirm the poll.

Alderman Lopez stated the conversation in reference to the lights that I think Tom Lolicata wanted to bring up tonight because we are taking a vote at the full Board on the rezoning and the developers are here to make sure that it is on record about the lights and I would ask Tom to explain it.

Mr. Lolicata stated as part of the agenda under new business I want to bring in a four-way stop sign in a school zone. That is coming down the hill at Vinton and Hall.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Lopez, it was voted to approve the four-way stop sign.

Alderman Lopez and what about the light that the developers are going to put in.

Mr. Lolicata answered they are going to put some signalization down on Mitchell and South Beech Street, which will be paid for by the developer. I was for all of this as far as South Beech Street is concerned. I have seen the figures and it won't

cost the City a penny. If I have to be on record, I would say yes you can have signalization there. I have seen the plans.

TABLED ITEMS

7. Communication from Alderman Vaillancourt regarding a petition from residents of the Pepperidge/Sherwood/Westwood Drive area requesting additional speed bumps in the area.

This item remained on the table.

8. Petition from residents of Oakland Avenue requesting additional measures to control vehicular speed on Oakland Avenue (i.e., four-way stop signs at various intersections.)

This item remained on the table.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee